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REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1-7, 11, 14-19, 22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Journal Article "Active growth factor delivery from poly(D,L-lactide-coglycolide) foams prepared in supercritical CO₂" by David D. Hile et al. ("Hile"). Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 20, 21 and 23-25 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 8 in independent form as amended Claim 1. Original Claim 8 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 9 in independent form as new Claim 27.

New dependent Claims 28-35 depend therefrom. Original Claim 9 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 10 in independent form as new Claim 36.

New dependent Claims 37-44 depend therefrom. Original Claim 10 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 12 in independent form as new Claim 45.

New dependent Claims 46-51 depend therefrom. Original Claim 12 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 13 in independent form as new Claim 52.

New dependent Claims 53-60 depend therefrom. Original Claim 13 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 20 in independent form as amended Claim 15. Original Claim 20 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 21 in independent form as new Claim 61.

New dependent Claims 62-67 depend therefrom. Original Claim 21 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 23 in independent form as new Claim 68.

New dependent Claims 69-72 depend therefrom. Original Claim 23 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 24 in independent form as new Claim 73.

New dependent Claims 74-79 depend therefrom. Original Claim 24 is cancelled.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 25 in independent form as new Claim 80.

New dependent Claims 81-86 depend therefrom. Original Claim 25 is cancelled.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 17, 2005 via facsimile number 703-872-9306.

Erin A. Campion